

15. The method of claim 3 including the step of:
performing a burnishing process by allowing the head to contact the disk surface
when the measured amplitude is outside of the predetermined tolerance in comparison to the
calibrated value.

16. The method of claim 3 including the step of:
verifying that the block of data written onto the disk surface was properly written
when the measured amplitude is outside of the predetermined tolerance in comparison to the
calibrated value.

17. The method of claim 16 including the step of:
performing a burnishing process by allowing the head to contact the disk surface
when the block of data written onto the disk surface could not be verified as being properly
written.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein the calibrated value is used as an initial value
for a running average of amplitudes of AGC fields within the first of said plurality of zones.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the running average is made up of a
predetermined number of samples of amplitudes of AGC fields within the first of said
plurality of zones.

20. The method of claim 19 including the steps of:
receiving a write command to write a block of data in the first of said plurality of
zones;
measuring an amplitude of an AGC field in the first of said plurality of zones in
5 response to the write command; and,
comparing the measured amplitude to the running average.

21. The method of claim 20 including the steps of:
writing the block of data onto the disk surface in a data sector associated with the
AGC field in the first of said plurality of zones; and,
determining whether the measured amplitude is within a predetermined tolerance in
5 comparison to the running average.

22. The method of claim 21 including the step of:
re-measuring the amplitude of the AGC field in the first of said plurality of zones
when the measured amplitude is outside of the predetermined tolerance in comparison to the
running average.

23. The method of claim 22 including the steps of:
re-writing the block of data onto the disk surface in the data sector associated with
the AGC field in the first of said plurality of zones; and,

5 determining whether the re-measured amplitude is within the predetermined tolerance
in comparison to the running average.

24. The method of claim 23 including the step of:
determining whether a high fly write flag has been set if the re-measured amplitude
is outside of the predetermined tolerance in comparison to the running average.

25. The method of claim 23 including the step of:
performing a burnishing process by allowing the head to contact the disk surface, if
the high fly write flag has not been set.

26. The method of claim 25 including the step of:
setting a high fly write flag.

27. The method of claim 24 including the step of:
writing the block of data to a different data sector on the disk surface if the high fly
write flag has been set.

28. The method of claim 24, including the steps of:
providing a second disk surface; and,
writing the block of data to a data sector on the second disk surface.